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Northern Lambda Nord

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VOLKSMARCH/OKTOBERFEST PLANNED FOR JANUARY

Get out your walking boots, beer mugs, and *liederhosen* for Lambda's first Volksmarch and German festival. *VOLKS-WHAT?* Volksmarch. It originated in Germany, and it's an event which takes place 'round the world. Members of a local community gather to spend time outdoors walking through town, village, and countryside. Some people jog, run, or wheel the pre-set distance. It takes place in a relaxed atmosphere of friendship and non-competitiveness. Waystations are set up along a route where people check in as they complete measured distances. They are provided refreshments and even a snack, then continue on their way. At the completion of the route, participants receive commemorative awards. Locally, Loring Air Force Base participates in the annual Global Volksmarch each fall, organized by the U.S. Air Force.

Plans are now being finalized for this January 16th event. Participants will meet at 1pm (Maine) 2pm (N-B); the Volksmarch will get underway by 2pm/3pm. We'll be walking on the bicycle path through Presque Isle. This is a former railroad right-of-way through the city, running mostly through tree-lined residential areas between the University of Maine campus at the southerly end, to a point at the north end of town beyond Zayre's. At first this may sound like a great distance, but remember: Presque Isle is not that big. The pathway is kept plowed during the winter. It's a paved surface, and hills are almost non-existent, so the walk will be an easy one. And we want to emphasize the non-competitiveness of this event; it is not a race. At the half-way point, walkers will be served cups of hot chocolate to warm the cockles of their hearts, and other vital organs. All persons who complete the entire distance of the Volksmarch will receive specially-prepared pink triangle pins and ribbons to commemorate this first Lambda Volksmarch '88.

But this Volksmarch is only half of the plan. The fun will continue through the rest of the afternoon and evening as we celebrate Oktoberfest in January with a German party. There will be a door charge (\$3 for Lambs, \$6 for our guests), and the food, beverages, and music are free. The menu will feature a variety of German foods: knockwurst, sauerkraut, sausage, potato salad, cheeses, bread, and dark beer. After walking the distance of the bike path, you should have a hearty appetite and thirst; bring your favorite drinking mug if you wish. And warm up your voices and feet, 'cause there'll be plenty of genuine German music, too. So instead of mid-January cabin fever, worrying how you're going to pay all those Christmas bills, plan to join in Lambda's Volksmarch and Oktoberfest!! Members' calendars, enclosed in this newsletter, have more details.

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 29TH MEETING

Plans were finalized for the January 16th Volksmarch/Oktobersfest.

The calendar for the next few months was planned, including date and location for Northern Lambda Nord's 8th anniversary party, a March Saint Patrick's Day party, and dates for the January and February meetings.

The issue of the fee structure for annual membership and the door charge at parties was discussed. Annual membership is \$13 per person for NLN's 12-month year, October 1 through September 30. The current fee structure at the door at parties is:

Members - \$2; Non-members - \$6 if you live in our 4-county region or \$3 if you live outside the 4-county region. (This region includes Aroostook County in Maine plus Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton Counties in New Brunswick); Non-members - if it is your first time at a Lambda function, you pay \$3.

If someone attends a gathering where there is a door charge and wants to join Lambda, the cost is \$13 for membership PLUS \$2 door charge. It is only at the annual October Membership Renewal Party where people can pay their year's membership and get in for no extra charge. At all other functions, there is the \$2 members' door charge.

Simplifying the door charge system was discussed.

Membership paid in installments was clarified. If someone is paying their \$13 annual fee in installments, it is expected that at each party they attend they make some payment towards the balance due PLUS pay the \$2 members' door charge.

The NLN fee structure, both annual and at gatherings, will be the main topic on the agenda at the December meeting, which is scheduled for January 3rd. This gathering will also include a fold-n-stuff of the January newsletter and a movie ("Personal Best" is the one we hope to show, the subject of which is the lesbian relationship between two professional track stars). The January meeting is scheduled for January 31st.

WHY ARE FIRE TRUCKS RED?

DO YOU KNOW WHY FIRE TRUCKS ARE RED?

Well, fire trucks have four wheels and eight firefighters. Four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a ruler. Queen Elizabeth is a ruler. And the Queen Elizabeth is the largest ship on the seven seas. Seas have fish, and fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians, and the Russians are RED. Fire trucks are always rushin'. Therefore, fire trucks are always red!!

If you think THIS is poor reasoning, just listen to some of our members explain why they don't attend meetings, and why some of the gay and lesbian people in the area don't become members.

"Why are fire trucks red?" is reprinted from GO INFO, the newspaper of Gays of Ottawa/Gais de l'Outaouais.

EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE ADOPTED AT UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

The Trustees of the University of Maine System have amended their employment/personnel policies to ban discrimination against lesbians and gaymen throughout the University System. The term "sexual orientation" has been added to the equal opportunity guidelines as one of the classifications that may not be used as a basis for discrimination within the seven-campus

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system. Trustee Teresa Moore of Dover-Foxcroft, speaking in favor of the amendment, noted that people within the University System who had been discriminated against could be expected to keep silent as long as the University had no policy that could protect them. Trustee Stanley Evans of Bangor noted that "the moment you don't provide a place where people who are different or you don't agree with, where you don't make it possible for them to be open and speak their minds, you don't have a university." The Trustees voted 8-5.

The Trustees met Monday, November 16th. In that day's edition of the Bangor Daily News, an editorial entitled "A Bad Idea", speaking against the adoption of this amendment, included a statement from Trustee Patricia M. Collins of Caribou: "Most people out there in the hinterlands are not as liberal as people in this room and they will not respond favorably. Politically, it's the wrong time."

The Bangor paper's November 18th editorial, "A Bad Decision", noted that "Monday's vote was gratuitous and pandering. It catered to a small, squeaky and politically trendy faction at the expense of what the majority of Maine people, of both sexes and of all educational backgrounds, believe is right and moral." An article in that same day's paper stated that this new policy extends a greater protection against discrimination to people within the University System than they would be entitled to elsewhere. Only 100 of the approximately 3200 colleges and universities in the United States have such a policy; only Wisconsin has such a law at state level.

Nowhere did the Bangor Daily News mention that for over 10 years the University of Maine's Fort Kent campus had a non-discrimination clause in their own policy protecting employees at UM/FK from discrimination based upon their sexual orientation.

The Trustees have been receiving much negative feedback, not only from the Bangor Daily News but from organized groups such as the Christian Civic League. Individuals are encouraged to write letters of support to the Chancellor of the University System and to the President of the Orono campus. Positive letters would be helpful to counteract the reported "pretty nasty hate mail" coming from Maine homophobes. Those members of the Board of Trustees who supported the amendment were well aware that they were spending some "legislative capital" to do so, but they felt that extending the non-discrimination clause to include gaymen and lesbians was important enough to spend some of that capital. Consequently, they need as much support from the lesbian-gay community as possible.

Please take a moment to write a letter stating that you support the recent action by the Trustees of the University of Maine System to amend their policies to protect lesbians and gaymen from discrimination. Send your letters to (they may be identical letters);

ROBERT WOODBURY, Chancellor, University of Maine System, 107 Maine Avenue,
Bangor 04401

DALE M. LICK, President, University of Maine, Alumni Hall, Orono 04469

You may also want to drop a note to Caribou's Patricia Collins, noting that those of us in the "hinterlands" are responding very favorably to the decision by the Trustees to amend the policies to protect gaymen and lesbians from discrimination. Her address is:

PATRICIA M. COLLINS, 4 Dorcas Avenue, Caribou 04736 - 498-8579

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Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

- ★★★ NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088
- FREDERICTON: Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, 04469 - meets Thursdays, 6-9pm
Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
- BANGOR: Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLSC - "Bagels"), c/o 87 Sunset Strip,
Brewer, 04412 - meets first Sunday and third Thursday each month, 7pm at 87 Sunset Strip;
Dances held at old Bangor Community College Student Union, first and third Saturday each month,
8pm-1am (alcohol & drug-free)
- BANGOR: DownEast Lesbian Gay Organization (DELGO), c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street 04401
207/942-6503
- QUEBEC CITY: Groupe Gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire,
Sainte-Foy, G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751
- QUEBEC CITY: Relais d'espérance, 617, rue Montmartre, G1N 1B3, 418/522-3301
- MONCTON: Gais et Lesbienness de Moncton/Gays and Lesbiars of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview,
E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013
- PORTLAND: Gay/Lesbian Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
- PORTLAND: Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
- PORTLAND: Dignity/Maine, Catholic group, POB 8113, 04104
- PORTLAND: Lesbian/Gay Committee, Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, POB 5112,
Station A, 04101
- PORTLAND: Maine Bisexual People's Network, POB 1792, 04104, 207/780-4085 (message)
- PORTLAND: Portland Pride Committee, POB 5112, Station A, 04112, 207/883-6934
- BELFAST: Maine Lesbian Feminists, POB 125, 04915
- CUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, \$12 for one year subscription,
POB 10744, Portland, 04104
- MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE, statewide group, POB 108, Yarmouth, 04096

AIDS information SIDA

- Maine - AIDS-line, Monday & Wednesday, 6-9pm, Saturday, 10am-1pm, 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
- New/Nouveau-Brunswick - AIDS-line, 1-800/561-4009 or 459-7518 (Fredericton)

- ★★★ COMMUNIQUE is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the
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